



DSC TECHNICAL BULLETIN 04-04

Subject: Artificial Weathering of New Wood

Discussion:

In the process of reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization, or making repairs to a contemporary structure, the need sometimes arises to make new unpainted wood appear “weathered” to blend with existing wood in close proximity. This can be especially true with wood shingle repairs. An artificial weathering treatment has been used successfully at Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in Plains, Georgia. Most of the work consisted of reconstructing unpainted structures that the park did not want to look like new construction.

Recommendation:

- Spray a 50% solution of Baking Soda and water (1lb of Baking Soda dissolved in ½ gallon of water).
- The wood will weather gray after 4 to 5 hours of sunlight.
- Unlike stains, this is a “chemical reaction” and is permanent.
- Apply only once.

Bruce Warneke,
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Images:



Jimmy Carter National Historic Site after 4 years



Jimmy Carter National Historic Site just after construction